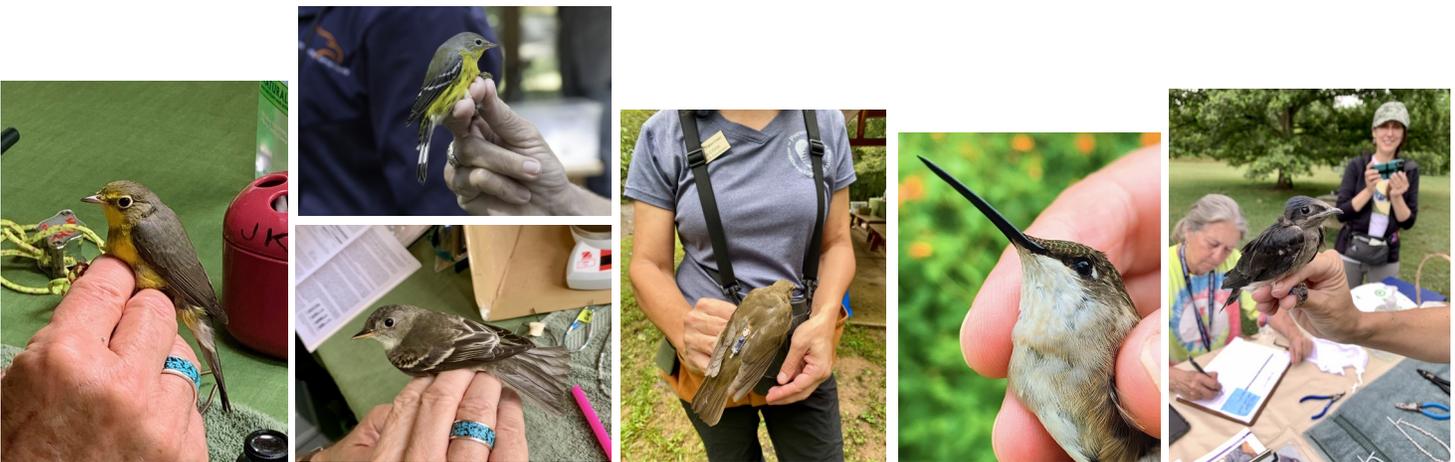


Bird Information, Research and Data Highlights

July, August, September 2021



From left to right: Laura Cook & Kathy Shaw shared our Purple Martin & Motus research on the Mark Fraley Podcast. The last MAPS banding session of the season on 04 August with lots of friends, but no birds captured! The Nature Conservancy interns helped search for radio-tagged birds. Schermerhorn Symphony Purple Martin roost is a migration phenomena. Volunteers Alan Plummer & Tahira Mohyuddin search for migrating warblers at the nature center.



From left to right: A young female Canada Warbler (we've only captured 15 in 40 years). Adult Magnolia Warbler (top) and Eastern Wood-Pewee (bottom). Adult Swainson's Thrush with a new Hybrid LifeTag. Female Ruby-throated Hummingbird. A 20-day Purple Martin nestling from one of the gourds at Warner Park Nature Center. We placed a radio transmitter on 6 martin nestlings and were able to track them to the downtown Nashville migration night roost. They departed for South America at the end of August—will they return to Warner Parks next spring?



From left to right: Diana McLusky & Sandy Bivens process a captured bird. BIRD intern Savannah Emery was trained to band Barn Swallow nestlings this summer. The hummingbird team set a new Warner Park record with 34 hummingbirds captured in 1.5 hours—a big day! Volunteer Steve Ghertner helps install a temporary Motus receiver station at the Bridgestone building in downtown Nashville to detect our radio-tagged Purple Martins. Tahira Mohyuddin, Kim Bailey, and Laura Cook determine the age of two Common Grackles based on their molt (feather replacement).

Bird Information, Research and Data (B.I.R.D.) Quarterly Report

July, August, September 2021

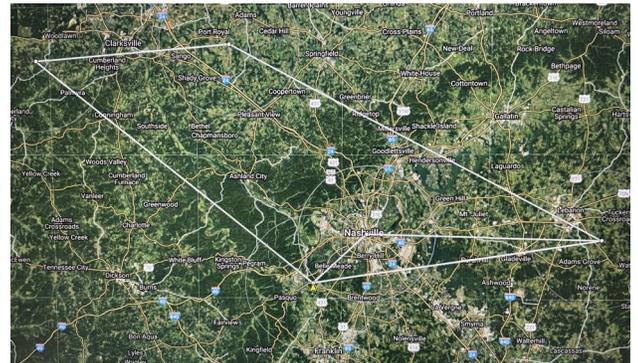
Celebrating the WPNC Bird Banding Station 40 year legacy of avian research

BIRD Program

- Our dedicated and amazing team of volunteers donated 475 hours to the BIRD Program & engaged 865 people.
- Kathy Shaw and Laura Cook shared about our Purple Martin research on the Mark Fraley Podcast—you can listen at <https://www.markfraley.com>
- Volunteer Jordan Jurnisky presented his work on BIRD data to our team with an R-data analysis overview.
- Diana McLusky and Sandy Bivens have worked diligently on our 40 year BIRD database –true data sleuths!
- The BIRD team zoomed in to watch former volunteer Allison Salas present her thesis defense on Bendire’s Thrashers in the Chihuahuan Desert. A big congratulations to Allison!
- Thank you to Dr. Dawn Wilkins from UT Martin for her fabulous presentation on owls. You can view the presentation at <https://www.youtube.com/c/WarnerParkNatureCenter>.
- Laura attended the annual American Ornithological Union annual conference which was held virtually this year.
- Savannah Emery completed her summer BIRD internship from Lipscomb University. She assisted with MAPS, Barn Swallow monitoring & banding, and is currently analyzing 20 years of hummingbird data for her research project.
- Thanks to Sandy Bivens, Graham Gerdeman, Leah LaRocco, Chris Sloan, and John Kell for leading fall migration bird hikes throughout the park. Vera Roberts will lead the last hike of the season 15 October. Call the nature center to register.

BIRD Research Projects

- **MAPS:** Our 31st year contributing this continent-wide breeding bird banding program of the Institute of Bird Populations. We held 10 banding sessions from 04 May—03 August and captured 114 birds of 28 species (83 new, 30 recapture, and 1 unbanded). Highlights include a recaptured Eastern Towhee female who was at least 6 years old and a pair of Wood Thrushes we radio-tagged and learned they were a mated pair with a nest behind the nature center.
- **Eastern Bluebird:** Started in 1936 and coordinated by Diana McLusky with the help of volunteers Sandy Bivens, John Kell, Sue Shallow, Kim Bailey, & Laura, Terry, Cody, & Elizabeth Cook. We banded 133 Eastern Bluebird nestlings, 13 adults, and 9 recaptures. This year, 93% fledged after hatching, higher than last year’s 79%. We documented fledge success of 3 Tufted Titmouse, 4 Carolina Chickadees, 16 Carolina Wrens, and 28 Tree Swallows from the bluebird boxes.
- **Motus:** During MAPS we recaptured the mated Wood Thrush pair and had to replace their transmitters because the antennas had detached. So far this fall, we have put hybrid LifeTag radio-transmitters on 1 Veery, 1 Hermit Thrush and 5 Swainson’s Thrush. These new transmitters send a signal 24-hours a day because of a small, rechargeable battery.
- **TOS fall count:** On 25 September, volunteers Kim Bailey, Graham Gerdeman, Rachel Anderson, Laura Cook, and Sandy Bivens conducted the Warner Park portion of the Tennessee Ornithological Society’s fall migration bird count. These have been on-going in Warner Parks since 1927! This year we had nice variety (69 species total) including Loggerhead Shrike, Golden-winged Warbler, Baltimore Oriole, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks.
- **Hummingbird migration research:** At WPNC, a dedicated team of 10 volunteers held 7 banding sessions in August & September & captured 105 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (93 new, 12 recaptures). On 08 September we set a WPNC record with 34 hummingbirds captured in 1.5 hours. Thank you to our volunteers who regularly maintained 30+ feeders. The metro-wide project coordinated by Sandy Bivens includes Bells Bend Outdoor Center, Beaman Park Nature Center & Shelby Bottoms Nature Center captured a total of 188 hummingbirds (175 new and 23 recaptures).
- **Purple Martin:** The 2 gourd systems at the nature center, had 12 active nests that fledged 47 Purple Martin young. We banded an adult pair and 27 nestlings, and placed radio-transmitters on 6 nestlings at approximately 20 days of age. We learned they spend about 9 nights roosting at the nature center after fledging & before joining the large migration roost in downtown Nashville. We also learned they forage a large area in Middle Tennessee for about a month before heading to South America for the winter. The map shows one Purple Martin over a 2 week period. A big thank you to Kim Bailey who coordinated dozens volunteers who engaged & educated over 500 people at the Nashville roost.



Thank you for your continued support of the BIRD Program which is funded by Friends of Warner Parks in partnership with Warner Park Nature Center and Nashville Metro Parks & Recreation